airlift dues, with interest, from the former Prime Ministers/concerned Political Parties.

(c) No, Sir. The journey performed in IAF helicopter on that date had been in official capacity.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Recruitment of youth into Army from H.P.

†2734. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that ever since Government had accepted population as a basis for recruitment in the army, the percentage of youth's being recruited into army from Himachal Pradesh has come down;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh had requested him through a letter dated 9th December, 1999 for increasing the recruitment of youth from Himachal Pradesh on the basis of recruitable male population; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir, there has been no decline of recruitment in Army from the State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A reply, explaining the position was sent to the Chief Minister.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.